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FBI Probes Leak of Secret U.S. Papers on India War

BY JOHN MACLEAN
(Chicago Tribune Press Service)

WASHINGTON, Jan. 5—The Federal Bureau of Investigation today investigated leaks of secret memoranda of high-level White House consultations during the India-Pakistan War.

Jack Anderson, whose syndicated column Washington Merry-Go-Round appears in 700 newspapers, released the text of the secret papers.

Anderson has been writing columns from the material and has concluded "that Presidential braintruster Henry Kissinger lied to reporters when he told them the Nixon administration wasn't anti-India."

Why Papers Released

Anderson released the papers because Kissinger, President Nixon's chief adviser on national security affairs, said Anderson "took out of context" remarks indicating the administration was against India in its recent war with Pakistan.

The FBI investigation reportedly has narrowed down to the National Security Council after checks in the Departments of State and Defense.

Spokesman for the White House, State Department, and Pentagon used nearly identical phrases as they declined to answer all questions on the subject. The response of Charles Bray, State Department spokesman, was typical when he told reporters: "I won't discuss the issue." Asked why he wouldn't, he said, "because I won't."

The documents are minutes of three meetings of a special action group of high level officials of the National Security Council.

Some of Highlights

Excerpted here are some of the highlights:

"Kissinger: I am getting hell every half hour from the President that we are not being tough enough on India. He has just called me again. He does not believe we are carrying out his wishes. He wants to tilt in favor of Pakistan. He feels everything we do comes out otherwise."

"Dr. Kissinger said that whoever was putting out background information relative to the current situation is provoking Presidential wrath. The President is under the 'illusion' that he is giving instructions; not that he is merely being kept appraised of affairs as they progress. Dr. Kissinger asked that this be kept in mind."

"Dr. Kissinger said . . . 'it is quite obvious that the President is not inclined to let the Paks be defeated.'"

"Dr. Kissinger then asked whether we have the right to authorize Jordan or Saudi Arabia to transfer military equipment to Pakistan." [Anderson said this morning on the television program Today that he has additional memos which show that fighter planes were among the things being considered in a scheme to "sneak" aid to the Pakistanis. A cutoff of military aid to Pakistan was ordered early last year].

"Dr. Kissinger also directed that henceforth we show a certain coolness to the Indians. The Indian ambassador is not to be treated at too high a level."

From High Sources

Anderson indicated the documents came from high sources within the Nixon administration.

"If the sources were identified, it would embarrass the

administration more than it would me," he said. "It would make a very funny story." Anderson said his sources for the story consider United States handling of the Indian-Pakistan affairs a "colossal blunder."

Anderson released the documents to newsmen with the urging that they compare them with Kissinger's remarks during a briefing of newsmen on Dec. 7.

Kissinger held a lengthy and unusual briefing on that day detailing what he said were the Nixon administration's actions regarding the India-Pakistan conflict.

He disclosed that India had attacked Pakistan even tho the United States has informed India that Pakistan was willing to make concessions.

'India a Great Country'

"There have been some comments that the administration is anti-Indian," Kissinger said. "This is totally inaccurate."

"India is a great country . . . when we have differed with India, as we have in recent weeks, we do so with great sadness."

The memoranda released by Anderson deal with meetings held before this briefing, the last one on the day before the briefing, Dec. 6.

The sessions were attended by heads of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Central Intelligence Agency, and representatives of the Defense and State Departments.

Kissinger was chairman of the meetings, which typically involved an appraisal of the situation in the India-Pakistan conflict followed by discussion of U. S. policy and possible actions.

All the Anderson documents were marked "secret/sensitive," but it is doubted the federal government will take any action to stop publication.

The Supreme Court's decision last June in the Pentagon Papers dispute ruled in favor of newspapers publishing the secret Pentagon study. The high court cited a 1963 decision that "any system of prior restraint of expression comes to this court bearing a heavy presumption against its constitutional validity."

The Supreme Court said then that government had failed to meet the "heavy burden" needed to justify such a move.

A typical exchange involved Kissinger and Maurice Williams, of the State Department staff.

During the Dec. 6 meeting, Kissinger asked if there already had been a massacre of Bihari people living in East Pakistan. Williams said he expected there would be killing of these people in reprisal for their support of West Pakistan.

"Mr. Williams states that perhaps an international humanitarian effort could be launched on their behalf. Dr. Kissinger asked whether we should be calling attention to the plight of these people now. Mr. Williams said that most of these people were centered around the rail centers . . . and that some efforts on their behalf might now well be started thru the United Nations.

"Dr. Kissinger suggested that this be done quickly to prevent a bloodbath. Mr. Sisco [Joseph Sisco, State Department Eastern Affairs

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